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JACOB'S ARMY.—A queer mode of defence was that of the Patriarch, not very wise or christian, according to the views now prevalent among men calling themselves followers of the Prince of Peace. Esau in his wrath had come out "with four hundred men;" a pretty formidable host for that day; and how did Jacob purpose to meet him? What sort of an army did he put in array against this force? His *army* consisted of "two hundred she-goats, and twenty he-goats, two hundred ewes, and seventy rams, forty kine, and ten bulls, thirty she-asses, and ten foals." A novel army that; a strange way of repulsing an enemy; but what was the result? "Jacob bowed himself to the ground seven times until he came near to his brother; and Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him; *and they wept.*"

Here was a real triumph, a christian victory, that turned a foe into a friend. What a pity that those Christians, who are forever poking about, to find in the few good men of that rude and barbarous age, examples to justify war under a new dispensation of peace, could not cull out such facts as these to illustrate and enforce the Sermon on the Mount. There is even in the Old Testament something better than war.

THE EASTERN WAR.

Respecting this conflict so long impending, but now begun in terrible earnest, we have little space for facts or speculation; but we cannot refrain from just alluding to a few points as worthy of reflection.

1. The delay of this war so long after its provocation, indicates a marked and very hopeful change through the civilized world. Had public opinion been what it was only half a century ago, the conflict would have begun at once, and most of Europe would ere this have been wrapt in the flames of a general war.

2. It is quite remarkable, and ominously significant, that the government of England, if not that of France also, has been goaded into this war by the people. The British Ministry seem to have resisted the popular current as long as they could, and retain their places. There has been among the people no wild outburst in favor of the war, but a steady, strong, overpowering demand for it even in spite of all its foreseen calamities to themselves as well as others.

3. This conflict will shed new and vivid light on War—its origin, its progress, its results;—points which we commend to the special consideration of thoughtful, conscientious, philanthropic minds, as this terrible drama proceeds, and opens its apocalypse of crime and woe on the world. It will probably teach, by a dear-bought experience, lessons of which its present abettors have hardly dreamed.

4. There are fearful uncertainties awaiting this struggle between one hundred and fifty millions of people. It is easy enough to begin it—one word from a Queen, or a single dash from her Premier's pen, may do it—has done it; but God alone can tell when, or where, or how it will end. It may yet overspread or convulse the world. Every war is terribly uncertain, but this peculiarly so in regard to its extent, its duration, and its final results. It cannot leave Europe or the world where they were at its com-

mencement, and may introduce a new order of things far worse for the cause of freedom and of general improvement.

Just glance at a few of the contingencies that must be obvious to every reflecting mind. If Russia should be able, not to conquer her enemies, but to protract the war until they become weary of it; if its recoil upon the material interests of England and France should turn the current of popular feeling against it in either of those countries; if Louis Napoleon should falter in its prosecution, or find himself, in consequence of a new revolution among his subjects endangering his throne, unable to act any longer in concert with Great Britain; if the revolutionists, now watching their opportunity in central and southern Europe, should simultaneously rise, and strike a joint and desperate blow for freedom; if Prussia, Austria, and other governments should be driven by their hopes and fears to take an active part on the side of Russia; or, if the Czar should be utterly defeated in his aims, and Turkey, rescued from his clutches, should be thrown, exhausted, and incapable of supporting herself either against her ancient foe, or even her own motley and rebellious subjects;—if any of these results, or a score of others that might be supposed, should occur, what then?

5. It is worthy of special note, that both England and France embark in this war without having any national interest at stake in the contest. But without such interest, how long will either the people or their rulers be willing to continue it?

6. Those who hope for immediate benefit to the cause of freedom from this war, are probably doomed to bitter disappointment.

7. Its rise already illustrates a variety of prevalent war-delusions. We have no space now to comment upon these; but we bespeak attention to them, and shall hereafter note their further development. Mark especially how each party deems the other the aggressor, and itself fighting only in self-defense! Offensive war! Is there any such thing in the vocabulary of military delusions?

8. The efforts made to abate the barbarities of war, and mitigate its incidental evils, especially in the treatment of neutrals, and the matter of that legalized, wholesale piracy called privateering, show not a little progress in opinion and practice; improvements for which America, as the first to attempt them in earnest, deserves, and will one day receive, great credit.

NOTICE.—The American Peace Society will hold its next Anniversary in Park Street Church, Boston, on Monday, May 29, at 7 1-2 P. M., when the Annual Address will be delivered by WILLIAM H. ALLEN LL. D., President of Girard College. Meeting for business at 3 P. M. of the same day in Park Street Vestry, when the Committee, appointed at the last annual meeting, will report a revision of the By-Laws.

W. C. BROWN, *Recording Secretary.*

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